

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE – HOUSE BILL 2292

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Imagine a seventh grade math teacher three years ago starting her 4th year in teaching and is handed the Common Core State Standards where about 50-60% of her previous curriculum were moved to other grade levels. Now she is a first-year teacher again – creating new lessons over topics she's never taught...this scared teacher was ME...Immediately, I freaked out – this was the first wave of change in my education career and I didn't want to change my ways just yet - but when I delved deeper into thoroughly understanding the purpose of the Common Core, I realized the major positive impact they were going to have on my students' futures.

Hi – I'm Abby Hedrick and am in my 7th year teaching 7th grade math in Paola. My purpose for meeting with you today is to reinforce your continued support for the Common Core initiative in Kansas.

First - The Common Core standards are **more clear and consistent**;

they provide national continuity in education more than ever before. No longer will kids in one state get a vastly different education than a student in another. Plus the previous standards had constant repetition which has been removed so students will not get stuck in endless loops of the same information.

Secondly - The Common Core standards are balanced against real-world application and spread across all contents:

Students are able to think critically about the world around them, and possess application skills, making them well-rounded. They focus on using complex texts across contents which increases overall literacy and prepares students to engage in critical thinking beyond high school.

Finally - The Common Core standards are geared toward college and career readiness and to secure competition in the global economy more than ever before.

The developers of the Common Core do not push one outcome on all students – their overall goal is prioritizing education for students to serve as citizens of the WORLD – not just in the city they live in.

After using Common Core for three years in my classes, a dramatic shift in my students' understanding has occurred and this has made a HUGE positive impact on their futures. They ask deeper questions about each topic and link the concepts together more than ever before.

Yes, I was a frightened teacher 3 years ago when I was to switch to the Common Core. I knew I would have the work cut out for me...but after I started seeing the benefits they made in my students' daily life – I am more than convinced they are the right curriculum for my classroom and for our nation's future. Today I ask you to continue to realize the benefits of the Common Core State Standard Initiative and be firm in knowing that your decisions of keeping it alive and going in Kansas will reap major benefits for not only your future but for generations to come. Thank you!